John Reich Journal

Volume 7 / Issue 1 October 1992

JRCS

JOHN REICH COLLECTORS SOCIETY
P.O. Box 135 Harrison, OH 45030

The purpose of the John Reich Collectors Society (JRCS) is to encourage the study of numismatics, particularly United States gold and silver coins minted before the introduction of the Seated Liberty design, and to provide technical and educational information concerning such coins.

Annual dues $10.00

For general membership information write to:
Office of the President, David J. Davis
P.O. Box 205, Ypsilanti, MI 48197

The **John Reich Journal** is the offical publication of the Society and is distributed to all members in good standing. Members are encouraged to submit any articles encouraging the study of numismatics and / or relating to early United States gold and silver coins to the editors. Especially needed are articles containing new information about die varieties, die states of published die varieties, attribution methods, collections, collectors, etc. Inquiries about specific varieties will be directed to one of the experts in that series. All correspondence should be directed to:

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Cover Photos: 1825 UNIQUE O118 Capped Bust Half Dollar. This is the discovery piece found in Oregon in 1983.
Courtesy of: East coast collector who is currently the owner.

John Reich Journal

Official publication of the

John Reich Collector's Society

Volume 7 / Issue 1 October 1992 Whole No. 18

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Editors' Comments

This issue will conclude our first year as co-editors of the **JR Journal**. We have learned many things about coins, people and printing in 1992. We would like to thank everyone who has helped us throughout the past year with articles, questions, answers, suggestions and other input. The job has been very rewarding and we appreciate the confidence given us by the officers and membership of the JRCS. We do need submissions to fill the pages of the Journal. 1993 will need 160 pages of information. Please take the time to write an article, letter or question this year. Please do not feel like you have nothing to give. Each member can contribute to make the **JR Journal** better. We will be happy to help you in any way we can, just let us know your needs.

This year's ANA was a great experience, as I'm sure that anyone that was there would agree. The best of each ANA ends up being the JRCS open house. This is the best place to talk coins, bounce new ideas off of others and just have a great time socializing. The two of us get around to a great majority of the mid-west coin shows. Keith will be at the Michigan State Numismatic Society convention in Dearborn, MI the weekend after Thanksgiving and Brad will be at FUN in Orlando, FL January 6-10 where there will be a small open house. We are really interested in getting a chance to meet you, so be sure to ask around for us at these shows. Feel free to drop us a line to see if we will be in your neck of the woods. Anytime there is a chance to talk to others about coins, we jump at the opportunity.

At the JRCS general meeting, there were a number of items that were brought up that we would like to inform the membership about. The Board formed a constitution committee of J. Alan Bricker, Russell J. Logan and John W. McCloskey. They are chartered to look into amendments to the constitution. They are looking into is raising the dues from $10.00 to $15.00 for the next year. This will essentially be used to offset the cost of having a quarterly journal. Also, to keep the life membership fee up to par with the regular membership, they are looking into changing it to 25 times the regular membership fee. Keep in mind that this won't happen until next year's ANA. You still have time to join as a life member at the bargain price of just $250.00. Be sure to send in your checks today.

Russell J. Logan and John W. McCloskey announced their latest endeavor. They are working on a variety book on Bust Half Dimes. They intend for this book to be similar in format to that of **Early United States Dimes 1796 - 1837**. We can't wait to see this book come to fruition in the next few years. If you are heavy into half dimes or just an all around variety connoisseur, this book will be one that you want to look out for.

If you use a computer to type up your article, send us the article on a disk so we won't have to retype and then proof for our own typing errors. The first time you send us an article though, be sure that you include a hardcopy so we can make sure that our wordprocessing conversion works correctly.

Since we send the **JR Journal** to the printer already laid out and ready to print, we have been able to get a less expensive price for printing. However, this means that we must do all of the 'type setting' ourselves. All of our initial typing of the articles is done in Microsoft Word for Windows version 2.0 but we are able to accept articles in just about any word processing format imaginable. Some of the main formats we can handle are WordPerfect, Multimate, WordStar, and of course ASCII or text format (in that order of preference).

We will be happy to return any disks that you send to us with articles, but be sure to request it's return or we will keep the disk in the archive files. Once again, if you have any questions on how to send articles, contact us.

Everyone should have received Volume 6, Issues 1, 2 and 3 by now. Please contact us if you are missing any of these issues. We must also announce a change in price for back issues. They will now be $4.50 each. There are some issues that are sold out, while many others are virtually gone. Do not hesitate any longer! We will <u>not</u> be reprinting any of the journals. Those of you wishing to 'catch-up' must do so now before it is too late! Volume 1, Issue 1 has been sold out for a few years and we are currently out of Volume 5, Issue 3. We are also very short of many other volumes, send in your order today.

We would also like to report the availability of a custom, full leather binding for your **JR Journals**. The two of us have had our sets of Volumes I - V bound for our personal libraries. The binding costs $100.00, which includes insured return

shipping via United Parcel Service. A portion of the proceeds goes to the club's treasury. Should you have any interest in having your set of journals bound, please contact us for more information.

We would like to mention that an error in Volume 6, Issue 1 has been brought to our attention. The printer reversed the photos on page 13 concerning the Bust Dollar article. The 'full view' photos on the left side of the page are out of order, the top one obviously being the later die state.

The officers of the John Reich Collectors Society voted to rename the yearly award for the best article that is given at the ANA. It is now **The Jules Reiver Literary Award** in recognition of the efforts of Jules on behalf of the JRCS and numismatics. Jules retired from his office of Vice President this year which prompted the officers to honor him. We would all like to thank you, Jules, for all of the fine things you have done for numismatics. You are truly a one of a kind gentleman, deserving of much more than we can give. Thank you for your years of service and friendship.

Now we would like to name Russell J. Logan as the winner of the first **Jules Reiver Literary Award** for his article, *The King of Siam Bust Half*, which appeared in Volume 6, Issue 2. This article barely outdistanced the second place article *Provenance & Protection For Prosperity* in Volume 6, Issue 2, also by Mr. Logan. Third place was a tie between *Thirty Questions - Once Again* by Edgar Souders, Volume 6, Issue 2, and *A Rarity Analysis of R-4's and Above Capped Bust Half Dollars* by Stephen Herrman, Volume 6, Issue 3. A total of 6 votes separated first and fourth places in the voting. 33 of the 36 articles written received votes. This shows support for the wide variety of articles written for the journal over the past year. All of our authors should accept a well deserved pat on the back for a job well done. Please remember to submit something for Volume 7, and be sure to vote when the time comes for next year's award.

Stephen Herrman, author of *A Rarity Analysis of R-4's and Above Capped Bust Half Dollars* from Volume 6, Issue 3, has made an offer to the JRCS members. He has accumulated the prices realized for R-4 to R-8 Capped Bust Half Dollars into a database and will provide a printout to members for $10.00. The printout is 39 pages covering sales from 1988 to the present. There are over 2200 entries and

it is sent in a plastic report cover. Mr. Herrman has generously offered to donate $2.50 from each sale from this announcement to the club's treasury. Please contact him at: 2817 South Jay Street, Denver, CO 80227.

Thank you for your offer, the club's treasury will surly be enriched by your generosity.

We would like to once again thank all of our new and old friends for all of the help, support and encouragement throughout the year.

If a man does not make new acquaintances as he advances through life, he will soon find himself left alone.

Samuel Johnson ***Boswell's Life of Johnson****, April 1755*

BUST QUARTER COLLECTORS

Russ Logan has informed us that it is time to send in your updates for the Bust Quarter Master Census. Everyone is encouraged to send in their census. Your identity will be kept secret by using your **JRCS** membership number as the heading for your collection. Your personal census will be kept confidential and not used for any other reason. This, and other censuses compiled by the **JRCS** for its members, is a valuable tool for determining rarity and condition census for varieties. Please forward your census, or questions, to the editors at:

P.O. Box 135, Harrison, Ohio 45030.

Bradley S. Karoleff / Keith G. Bellman

Plaudits, Pans and Perplexing Points

JRCS I am writing this note to inform you of a problem with one of the articles in Volume 6, Issue 1 (August, 1992) of the **JR Journal**. It seems that someone has flip-flopped some artwork in Don Parsley's article, *Working Die Preparation for the Lettered Edge Series of United States Half Dollars*. All of the die illustrations mislead the reader by showing them backwards. They presently show what a half dollar looks like, but not the reversed image of a working die. On the face of the working die, the bust and eagle face right.

Edgar E. Souders

JRCS In Plaudits, Pans and Perplexing Points, Mr. Stew Witham mentioned that he disagreed with question 22 from *Thirty Questions - Once Again* in Volume 6, Issue 2 (April, 1992). This question states that "John Reich died in New York in" (b) 1833. I would like to quote my source for this information (not that Mr. Witham is incorrect, I just want everyone to know where that date came from). In **Who was Who in America** (Historical Volume 1607 - 1896. Revised Edition 1976. Published by Standard American Selective Biographical Reference - The A. N. Marquis Company, Chicago, Il 60611), it lists the following;

> Reich, Johann (John) Mathias, medallist; b. Furth, Bavaria, 1768; s. Johann Christian Reich. Came to Phila., circa 1800; executed several medals for U.S. Govt., 1801-13; apptd. asst. engraver U.S. Mint, 1807; a founder Soc. of Artists, 1811, Pa. acad., 1812; went West , after 1813. Died Albany, N.Y., 1833.

Stew stated that he believed that he died in 1832, but has found no proof. I would be very interested in any and all information concerning this matter.

Edgar E. Souders

JRCS

I had the opportunity to view the Richard Pugh collection on May 26, 1992 in Beverly Hills. I planned to use this viewing as an educational visit, since this was the first major Bust Half auction I've ever had the chance to attend.

After I had carefully examined the 931 lots, I was more than rewarded for my time and expense. Although many coins had hairlines, there were some beautiful problem free VF-20++ early date (1808-1809) halves that were conservatively graded. Also, many of Richard's coins were well struck with full dentils, original surfaces and lovely toning.

I was disappointed with many of the certified coins but lot 1030 (1817/13 O101, PCGS AU-58) and lot 1093 (1819/18 O103a, PCGS AU-55) were exceptional coins. To see this quality and rarity in one sitting was not only exciting, but it gave me a standard with which to compare with my collection.

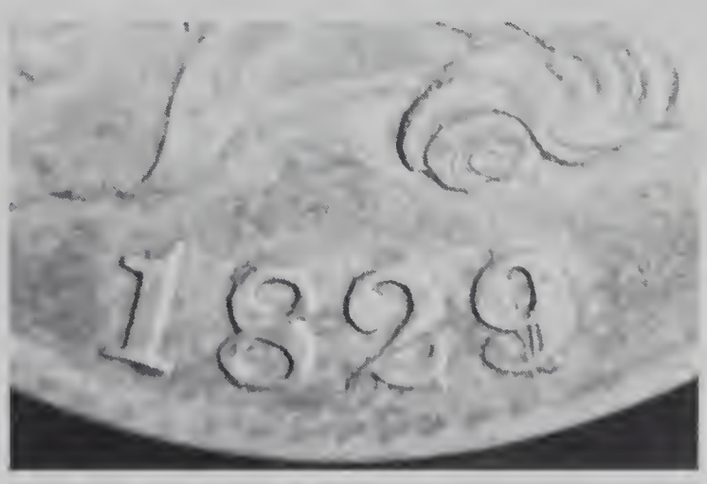
I hope my positive experience will encourage other serious collectors to personally view major collections when they appear on the market.

J. Warren Long

JRCS

Enclosed is a photo of an 1829/27 O102 Half Dollar. As you can see, there is a die crack from the edge, through 9 and into the curls. This subvariety is not listed in Overton's Third Edition and I would suggest it to be an O102a. Your thoughts would be appreciated.

Brian Wasserman



JRCS I've gotta question for the 'dime guys':

While recently viewing a high-grade, fairly-early-die-state, 1829 JR1, I apparently began hallucinating. The C in the denomination is re-cut as expected, but several other letters and stars are also doubled.

To my surprise and amazement, I thought I saw a wild (but faint) re-cutting of the 0 in the denomination on the reverse. This punching of the 0 is about halfway into the feather/stem junction.

Would the dime collectors please check their high-grade, early state, 1829 JR1's, and either confirm or deny my possible illusions?

Inquisitively,

JRCS # 432

JRCS I am a new member in the JRCS and have a question about an 1836 half dime I own.

The half dime is an obvious V2 with one exception, it has strong evidence of a 3 over a reversed 3 similar to the V4 of the same date. Since my reference books, Walter Breen's **Complete Encyclopedia of U.S. and Colonial Coins** and Daniel W. Valentine's **The United States Half Dimes**, do not mention V2's with a 3 over reversed 3, I was wondering if you have any updates or further information on varieties for that date. Also, the V2 reverse mentions that two arrowheads touch shafts, and the coin I own clearly has only one arrowhead touching one shaft.

I would appreciate any additional information that you can provide.

Daniel D. Bonnett

JRCS In response to your reader's inquiry about the 1836 V2 half dime:

The 1836 V2 does display some slight doubling at the date, particularly at the digit 3, however this doubling (as photographed in Breen's Encyclopedia) does not resemble the 'reverse 3' seen on the V4. The 8 leans slightly towards the 1. The V2 obverse can be easily distinguished by the lower right point on star 11 being dramatically doubled. The reverse is the only known 1836 reverse where the I in PLURIBUS is centered under A. It has the small 5C, and A3 touches arrowhead.

The V4 (3 over reverse 3) has the 6 in the date high and leaning slightly towards the 3. The reverse bears the large 5C, and O in OF very, very low. A3 is very close to the arrowhead, but does not quite touch.

If the coin does not match one of these two descriptions, it needs to be photographed, or at least, checked out by somebody. It may be a new variety (probably not).

With respect to using arrowhead-shaft relationships as keys for attribution, I've had some difficulties with Valentine's method and descriptions. It seems that an early strike from a reverse die can have both arrowheads touching the shaft above, while later states can have only one or neither arrowhead touching the shaft. Die lapping or polishing grinds down the die's fields, which causes the fine detail of the arrowheads to 'separate' slightly on later strikes. Also, weakness of strike, or unevenness of the planchet, in this area of the coin could 'separate' these devices, as the planchet may not be impressed into the die sufficiently to fill these shallow recesses.

The description that both arrowheads touch the shafts may be a misprint in Valentine, as I don't recall having seen an example where this is true. Or perhaps, Valentine was looking at a very early state of this reverse, where this could be true. The V2 shares a common reverse die with the 1836 V1 and 1835 V1, with the earliest use occurring on the 1836 V1. I have seen a well struck 1836 VI that shows the lower arrowhead touching the shaft, and the middle arrow fairly close to (but not touching) the upper shaft.

Mark Smith

JRCS

I received the following letter earlier this year and have not been able to locate a coin for Mr. Wells to study. Can anyone out there help?

2/22/92

Dear Editors,

Bill Atkinson suggested I contact you since I am working on an article for CONECA about edge errors. I need to locate and / or purchase a Bust Half Dollar 1806 or 1807 any variety with a positional edge error, or at least a photograph or two. I am also searching for a hypothetical Talbot Allum & Lee Cent with an edge error. I've enclosed a copy of J. T. Stanton's photo of my Kentucky Token who's edge was not placed at the very end of the castaing machine's stationary die. The edge device reads: "PAYABLE IN LANCASTERONDON OR BRISTOL", and the stationary die was hubbed "LONDON OR BRISTOL". Notice also that the edge lettering appears to have been applied after the token was struck, curious. Anyway, I understand you are a Bust Half Dollar specialist, so certainly you would have opinions and interest in castaing machine errors as I do. Hope to hear from you.

Please contact me if you are able to shed some light on the subject.

Andrew Wells

5/19/92

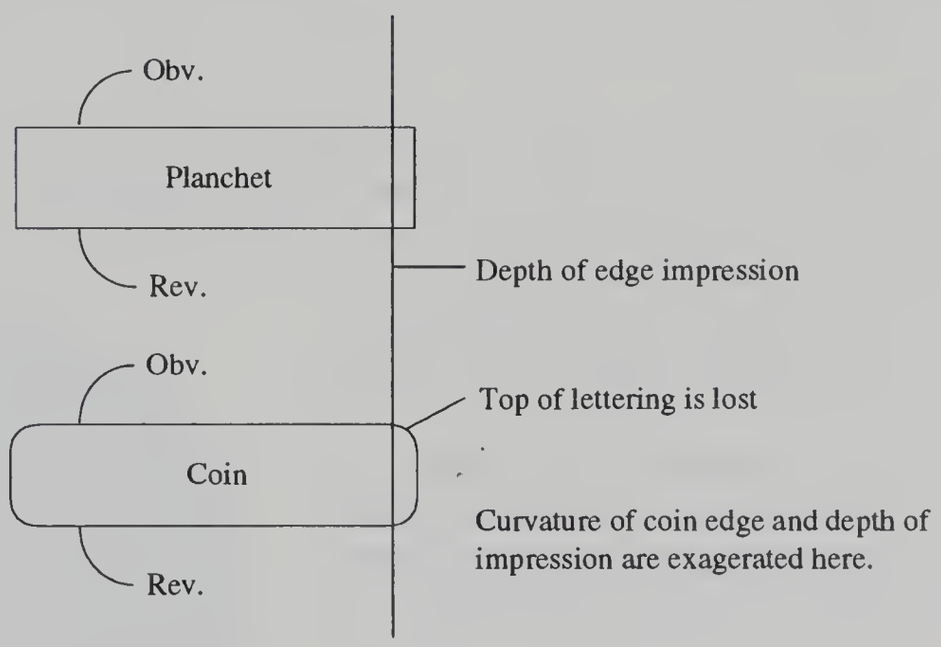
Dear Editors,

Your inability to locate anyone that could at least provide photographs, renews my appreciation of the one specimen I have with an edge device positioning error.
Most bourse dealers understandably use stapled 2x2's rather than open flips to minimize mishandling damage. This entails tapping the Bust Half completely around inside the dollar sized holders to view all of the edge. Invariably, the result is a rotated coin with respect to the edge of the cardboard 2x2. This seems to really steam some dealers more proud of the arrangement of their showcase than the quality of their material.
Therefore, few opportunities are available to examine edges in volume. I thank you for soliciting response to my requests in the **Bust Half Nut Club Newsletter**. Surely someone will be able to help with photos, and possibly additional research notes too. I certainly would like to see more detail than the examples in the back of Overton's Third Edition **Early Half Dollar Die Varieties 1794 - 1836**.

Michael Hodder, in correspondence last December, first brought to my attention that occasionally a coin or token would have the edge device applied after striking. He wrote:

> "I've seen some Bust Halves, 1806 - 1813, that seem to show the same thing your Kentucky token does, namely, edge lettering applied after striking."

These tokens were produced in England from copper, and struck without collar. My example shows whole sections of the tops and bottoms of the lettering missing, as if worn away or weakly impressed. Since the castaing machine produces edge lettering with uniform pressure on the planchet from a spring loaded movable die, the depth of the lettering is most uniform. When the copper token was struck, the metal flowed outward creating a bulge in the center of the edge. Consequently, since there was no longer a relatively flat surface on which to impress an image, some of the high and low places were not transferred properly.



If my token were to have been lettered first, the edge device would be complete, although perhaps a bit distorted after strike. No one has adequately studied edges with respect to when in the minting process the ornamentation was applied. My guess is the Philadelphia Mint experimented with both ways on early half dollars, settling on applying the lettering before strike about 1814.

Andrew Wells

(PPP continues on page 37)

Proof Coins and Politics, 1796-1821

Michael Hodder

From 1821 onwards, the Mint regularly issued Proof coins each year. Before that date, Proofs appear irregularly. Why were Proof coins struck before 1821? This is a question that has not yet been adequately answered. A related question, why do Proofs appear to have been struck in some years and not in others, may provide a tentative answer.

If we use the 1796-1821 listings in Walter Breen's fundamental study of Proofs we find coins he called Proofs dated in the following years: 1796, 1797, 1798, 1800, 1804, 1806, 1807, 1809, 1811, 1817, 1818, 1819, 1820 and 1821. If we analyze the scanty documentation concerning delivery dates that survives for some of these issues, and include what is known from comparative die state studies about when some coins were actually struck (as opposed to their dates), an interesting pattern seems to emerge. Not every Proof issue can be examined this way, since we know far less about the early Proofs than we do about later ones. There will be some gaps in this analysis, which is why I have called the answer I propose a tentative one.

1796. Breen recorded a few Proof 1796/5 V2 and 1796 Perfect Date V1 half dismes. The latter appears to have been coined and delivered in 1796, while the former may not have been used until December of that year, the first delivery being made on February 28, 1797. Breen noted about a dozen 'presentation' JR-6 dismes known, all from the early states of the dies. The editors of **Early United States Dimes 1796 - 1837** observed that many 1796 dime varieties in their early states are known prooflike. Taking only the variety Breen concluded was found in Proof format, JR6, it appears that the first warrant for delivery of these, which would have included the earliest run from these dies, was dated February 28, 1797. Some 1796 B1 and B2 quarters are known prooflike. Breen believed that these were among the first delivery of quarters, April 9, 1796. They could just as easily have been among the 252 pieces delivered to the Bank of the United States on February 28, 1797. The dies remained perfect throughout their lives, so die states are no help in deciding which delivery included the prooflikes.

Prooflike 1794 V4 half disme struck from the perfect state of the obverse die.

Colonel E. H. R. Green owned 200 1796 quarters, about half of which were prooflikes from the B2 dies. For the purposes of this argument, I assume that the prooflikes were part of the 1797 delivery. Some Fifteen Stars O101 half dollars are known on polished flans.
All warrants for delivery of half dollars are dated 1797, 60 pieces on February 28, 874 on March 21, the remaining 2,894 on May 26. Breen notes one Sixteen Stars O102 half dollar as a 'presentation' (i.e., Proof, as I shall call them) coin, which could not have been struck until after the O101's. It must also have been included in the 1797 deliveries.
Breen claimed one No Stars Quarter Eagle Proof was known. This issue was not struck until late in 1796, the majority being delivered to the Bank of the United States in December of that year. He claimed three Proof With Stars Quarter Eagles were known. All of this issue was struck after January 14, 1797. He felt there were half a dozen Proof Sixteen Stars Eagles known. The last delivery of these was made on December 22, 1796.

So, of the ten varieties of these six denominations dated 1796 that Breen felt survived in Proof format, we find the following. Only one was definitely struck and delivered in 1796, exact date unknown (V1 half disme). Two varieties were delivered in December, 1796 (No Stars $2 1/2, 16 Stars $5); two were, as likely as not, delivered on February 28, 1797 (B1 and B2 quarters); and five were definitely warranted for delivery or struck in 1797, most February 28 of that year (V2 half disme, JR6 disme, O101 and O102 half dollars, With Stars Quarter Eagle). Breen believed that the Proof dismes, quarters, and No Stars Quarter Eagles were made to commemorate the beginning of coinage of the denominations, the Sixteen Stars Half Dollars and half eagles to commemorate the admission of Tennessee to the Union, and the Fifteen Stars Halves and With Stars Quarter Eagles to mark the type changes. He offered no reason for striking the Proof half dismes.

1794 V4 half disme (possibly a presentation piece) struck from the clashed state of the reverse.

Nine of these ten 1796 varieties were warranted for delivery or struck between December of that year and late February, 1797. The presidential election of 1796 was decided on December 7, with John Adams elected President, Thomas Jefferson Vice President.

1797. Breen recorded a unique Proof V2 half dime and the rumor of a Proof B.2-B heraldic eagle $10, (Woodin:1185). No quarters were struck dated 1797. Hilt included the half dimes in delivery warrant 92, dated June 29, 1797 and the eagles in warrants 93 and 102, dated June 29, 1797 and January 11, 1798, respectively. Breen believed that the half dime had

been presented to Matthew Boulton while the eagle was struck to mark the new type. Adams and Jefferson were inaugurated on March 4 of this year.

1798. Breen recorded the report of a Proof quarter eagle, B1, which he had not seen. This coin was said to have a planchet lamination. No half cents, half dimes, quarters, or half dollars were struck dated this year. Breen could find no obvious reason for striking Proofs this year.

1799. No Proof coins recorded dated this year. No half cents, half dimes, dimes, quarters, half dollars, or quarter eagles were struck dated 1799.

1800. Breen recorded a Proof half eagle, B.1-B, and had seen two eagles that he felt qualified. Some 37,628 half eagles were coined dated 1800, but a full 70% of these were struck after January 19, 1801. Some 25,965 eagles were delivered in 1800 but the vast majority of these were actually dated 1799. Breen suggested that only 5,999 1800 eagles were struck that year, and showed that these were delivered between November 18 and 25, 1800. No quarters, half dollars, or quarter eagles were struck dated 1800. Breen could find no obvious reason for striking Proofs this year. The presidential election of 1800 was decided on December 3, with the Democratic-Republican party winning over Adams' Federalists. The electoral college deadlocked and the House of Representatives finally decided the election on February 17, 1801. Thomas Jefferson was chosen President, Aaron Burr Vice President.

1801. No Proof coins recorded dated this year. The Proof dollars were not struck until much later, certainly after 1828. No half cents, quarters, quarter eagles, or half eagles were struck dated 1801. Jefferson and Burr were inaugurated on March 4.

1802. Breen recorded the report of a Proof half eagle of this date, which he had not seen. At least part of the 1802 half eagle mintage was likely struck late in this year, or early in 1803. No quarters or eagles were struck

Proof 1821 small date JR9 dime.

dated this year. The Proof dollars were not struck until much later, certainly after 1828. Breen could find no obvious reason for striking Proofs this year.

1803. No Proof coins recorded dated this year. No quarters or quarter eagles were struck dated 1803. The Proof dollars were not struck until much later, certainly after 1828.

1804. Breen recorded a unique Proof Crosslet 4 Eagle, B.1-A, in the National Numismatic Collection. It is believed that 3,757 were struck, all in December, 1804 but before the 31st of the month, when Jefferson halted coinage of the denomination. The Proof Plain 4 Eagles of the Siam set type were not struck until late 1834. The Class I Proof dollars were also struck in 1834; the Class 11 and III dollars even later. No dollars were coined for circulation again until 1836 or later. No half dimes or half dollars were struck dated this year. Breen could find no obvious reason for striking Proofs this year. The presidential election of 1804 was decided on December 5 in the first election with separate ballots for President and Vice President. Jefferson was re-elected president. His Vice President was George Clinton.

1805. No Proof coins recorded dated this year. No eagles were struck this year. Jefferson and Clinton were inaugurated on March 4.

Possibly a transition piece between earlier and later dated dimes showing evidence of Kneass' early experimentation with a closed collar.

1806. Breen recorded one Proof half dollar, (Hawn:20), which he felt "may qualify." No half dimes, dimes, or eagles were struck dated 1806. Breen could find no obvious reason for striking Proofs this year.

1807. Breen recorded two Proof half dollars: O110, Bust Right, (Hawn:24) which he felt "may qualify" and 0-114, Bust Left, (Dupont:2045). No Proof half eagles were known, despite the type change on that denomination. No half dimes or eagles were struck this year. Breen suggested the Bust Left Proof was struck to mark the new type, but could find no obvious reason for coining the Bust Right type in Proof.

1808. No Proof coins recorded dated this year despite the type changes on the cent and quarter eagle. No half dimes, dimes, or quarters were struck dated 1808. The presidential election of 1808 was decided on December 7. James Madison was elected President, with George Clinton re-elected Vice President.

1809. Breen recorded a Proof half dollar, O109. No Proof half cents or dimes recorded despite the type changes. No half dimes, quarters, quarter eagles, or eagles were struck dated 1809. Breen could find no obvious reason for striking the Proof half dollar. Madison and Clinton were inaugurated on March 4.

1810. No Proof coins recorded dated this year. No half dimes, dimes, quarters, quarter eagles, or eagles were struck this year.

1811. Breen recorded a unique Proof half cent, G1, (Norweb:67). This coin was later catalogued as prooflike. No half dimes, quarters, quarter eagles, or eagles were struck this year. Breen could find no obvious reason for striking the Proof half cent.

1812. No Proof coins recorded dated this year. War had been declared against Great Britain on June 18. No half cents, half dimes, dimes, quarters, quarter eagles, or eagles were struck dated this year. The presidential election of 1812 was decided on December 2. James Madison was re-elected President, with Elbridge Gerry as his Vice President.

1813. No Proof coins recorded dated this year despite the type change on the half eagle. No half cents, half dimes, dimes, quarters, or quarter eagles were struck dated 1813. Only cents, half dollars, and half eagles bear that date. Madison and Gerry were inaugurated on March 4.

1814. No Proof coins recorded dated this year. No half cents, half dimes, quarters, quarter eagles, or eagles were struck dated 1814. In August the British burned Washington but their attack against Baltimore was abortive. Peace was restored on December 24, 1814.

1833 JR2 Proof dime. This is an early die state without die cracks.

1815. No Proof coins recorded dated this year despite the type change on the quarter. No half cents, cents, half dimes, dimes, quarter eagles, or eagles were struck dated 1815.

1816. No Proof coins recorded dated this year despite the new cent type. No half cents, half dimes, dimes, quarters, half dollars, quarter eagles, half eagles, or eagles were struck this year. On January 11 a fire at the Mint destroyed the buildings housing the planchet rollers and cutters. On June 24 the Mint installed its first steam engines, to drive the rollers and cutters. National fiscal affairs were in collapse due to the British blockade and the accrued costs of the war. The presidential election of 1816 was decided on December 4. James Monroe was elected President, Daniel Tompkins Vice President.

1817. Breen recorded one-sided Proof cents, N6 and N8 (Starr:87); and an 1817/3 O101 Proof half dollar, also one-sided. No other denominations were coined this year. Breen could find no obvious reason for striking the Proofs. Monroe and Tompkins were inaugurated on March 4.

1818. Breen recorded a Proof quarter, B8; and Proof 1818/7 Large 8 O101, 1818/7 Small 8's O102, and 1818 Perfect Date O113 Half Dollars. It is believed that the quarter was struck late in 1818 and was the first issue of quarters since 1815. Fewer than 10 Proof 1818 half dollars are believed known. No half cents, half dimes, dimes, quarter eagles, or eagles were struck this year. Breen could find no obvious reason for striking the Proofs.

This piece combines rarity and quality, far eclipsing the VF-25 listed as finest seen in the 1984 dime book.

1819. Breen recorded Proof cents, N2, N8, and N9; and the report of a Perfect Date Proof half dollar. No half cents, half dimes, dimes, quarter eagles, or eagles were struck this year.

1820. Breen recorded Proof cents, N6, N10, and N13; dimes, JR2; quarters, B1, B2 (one sided), and B4 (one-sided); half dollars, O103, O105, O106, and O108; and half eagles, B.1-A, B.3-C, and B.4-D. Over the years he lost track of the dimes and they could not be confirmed by the editors of **Early United States Dimes 1796 - 1837**. The quarters were actually struck in 1821. No half cents, half dimes,

quarter eagles, or eagles were struck dated 1820. Breen guessed that the Proofs may have been made for Alabama's admission to the Union in December, 1819, or for Maine's admission in March, 1820, or for the bicentennial of the landing of the Pilgrims. The presidential election of 1820 was decided on December 6. Both Monroe and Tompkins were re-elected.

1821. Breen recorded Proof cents, N1 and N2; Large and Small Date dimes; quarters, B3, B4, and B5; half dollars, O102 and O107; quarter eagles; and half eagles, B.3-A. Judging from the number that survives today, the issue of Proof large cents must have been unusually large. No half cents, half dimes, or eagles were struck this year. Breen suggested that Proofs may have been made to mark Missouri's admission to the Union in August. Monroe and Tompkins were inaugurated on March 5.

There is no written evidence whatsoever from the period 1796-1821 to suggest why Proof coins were struck in some years and not in others. Mint records that may have answered these questions were probably among those destroyed by Union troops engaged in the defense of Washington. I have found no references to Proof coins in the Congressional Record of the time, in published calendars of presidential papers, the memoirs of David Rittenhouse, the letter books and ledgers of John Marshall (Chief Justice of the Supreme Court 1801-1835). In fact, apart from the documented King of Siam set, which was a diplomatic gift in 1835/6, and the two 1836 Gobrecht dollars given to President Jackson and Vice President Van Buren, there appears to be no written evidence surviving before 1834 that would tell us why Proofs were made. Any, suggestions offered are really only guesses, including this one.

For later issues in Proof, type changes or the introduction of a new denomination seem to have been commemorated by the issuance of Proof coins for collectors and the Mint's own cabinet. The 1796 quarter eagles, the 1796 Fifteen Stars Half Dollar and the 1807 Bust Left Half Dollar are examples we can point to of Proofs that may have been made to mark significant, as well as minor, type changes.

Proof 1834 Large Date, Large Letter O101 half dollar. This is one of only four confirmed by Breen's research.

The introduction of the dime, quarter, and quarter eagle in 1796 are examples of Proofs that may have been made to mark the start of the coinage of these denominations. Admission of new states to the Union are other, non numismatic, reasons that have been pointed to for why Proofs may have been made.

On the other hand, in the 1796-1821 period there are many examples of major type changes and/or resumptions of coinage after a lapse that do not seem to have been commemorated by early Proofs, or at least, by any that survive today. For instance, there appear to be no Proof 1801 half dollars, 1804 quarters, 1807 half eagles, 1808 cents or quarter eagles, 1809 half cents or dimes, 1815 quarters, 1816 cents, or 1818 half eagles known today. It is very possible that prior to 1821, when the Mint began issuing Proofs regularly, it was not felt necessary or important to mark the introduction of new types or resumptions of coinage with the issuance of Proof specimens from the new dies.

The absence of Proofs from some years is easily understood. That none appear to have been made from 1812-1816 can be explained by the nation's preoccupation with the War of 1812 and the economic collapse that followed it. For other years there is no simple historical explanation that comes to mind. These include 1799, 1801, 1803, 1805, 1808, and 1810. The second and fifth are particularly inexplicable since there were important numismatic changes those years.

This Starr Collection coin was purchased from B. Max Mehl's sale of the William B. Hale Collection, November 28, 1939.

For some years Breen could find no obvious reasons for striking the Proofs that survive today. These include 1798, 1800, 1802, 1804, 1806, 1809, 1811, 1817, and 1818. In addition, he could not point to a reason for the Proof 1807 Bust Right Half Dollar.

Is it possible that presidential elections and/or inaugurations may also have been marked by the issuance of Proof coins? This is one explanation for striking Proofs in some years and not in others that has been overlooked. If we compare years when there were elections and inaugurations against those from which Proofs survive we find the following interesting correlations.

Proof Years	Election Years	Inaugural Years
1796	1796	
1797		1797
1798		
1800	1800	
		1801
1802		
1804	1804	
		1805
1806		
1807		
	1808	
1809		1809
1811		
	1812	
		1813
	1816	
1817		1817
1818		
1819		
1820	1820	
1821		1821

This table shows that of the 14 years that Breen recorded in Proof, eight were also either election or inauguration years. In seven cases, 1798, 1802, 1806-7, 1811, 1818-9 there appears to be no correspondence. If we examine these, however, we find that Breen noted that the 1798 quarter eagle was struck on a laminated planchet; the 1802 half eagle was reported to but not seen by him; he listed the 1806 half dollar only as a possible proof; two of the three 1807 half dollars he also listed as possible proofs; and the 1811 half cent has been called prooflike by other numismatists. Thus, there is some question about the Proof status of the coins struck in four of these seven years, and two of the three Proofs of the fifth are disputed.

On its face this table is interesting, but it only presents a superficial picture. If it is compared with the information I presented above in the year by year listings, a clearer picture will emerge, since many coin's dates do not correspond to the actual dates of striking or delivery.

Breen recorded 58 different varieties of the various denominations struck 1796-1821 that he felt qualified as Proofs. Using the annual analysis and noting the dates of warrants for delivery, dates when varieties are known to have been struck as compared to dates on the coins, as well as the dates that do appear on the coins, a much richer and more suggestive correlation between political events and the striking of Proofs becomes clear. Of the 58 Proof varieties recorded 26 (45%) were struck, dated, or warranted for delivery in inaugural years. Particularly interesting cases are the 1796 issues warranted for delivery on February 28, 1797, just four days prior to the March 4 inauguration of Adams and Jefferson. Another example is the 1800 half eagle, which was struck after January 19, 1801, about six weeks before Jefferson's and Burr's inauguration. Not every one of these 26 varieties can definitely be shown to have been struck or delivered before March 4 of the year, when the inauguration occurred. The evidence simply does not survive. In its absence, I have assumed that Proofs dated in inaugural years were delivered before the inauguration and in the few cases where this assumption can be tested it has proven to be accurate.

A further 15 varieties (26%) can be tied to election years, with the December, 1796 warrants for delivery of the No Stars Quarter Eagles and 16 Stars Eagles, the November 18-25, 1800 (or shortly afterwards) warrant for delivery of the eagle, and the December, 1804 coinage of the Crosslet 4 Eagles being examples.

Proof 1834 O122 Small Date, Small Letter Crushed Lettered Edge Half Dollar. This is one of four owned privately. The fifth known is in the National Numismatic Collection.

This Starr Collection half was Virgil M. Brand's specimen and was last sold in Schulman's and Kreisberg's sale of the Brand-Lichtenfels Collections, March, 1964.

Again, I have assumed that Proof coins dated in election years were actually struck just before or after the presidential vote. This assumption has also been tested against what little evidence survives and has been found sound.

Since the presidential election occurred early in December and the inauguration just three months later, it is quite possible that the Proof coins tied to election years should really be included with those tied to inaugural years. An election did not make a man president, after all. Not until he took the oath of office did his predecessor cease being chief executive and the new president assume the cares of the office. If we combine the totals for inaugural and election years, we find that 41 of the 58 Proof varieties can be accounted for, representing 71% or nearly three-quarters of the whole.

Only 17 Proof varieties (29%) cannot be accounted for by political events. Of these, one can be explained by the introduction of a new type and three as examples of the last year of an older type. I may represent a Proof struck on the occasion of the entry of a new state into the Union. The balance have no obvious reasons for why they should have been struck.

I do not mean to suggest that the only reason for coining Proofs before 1821 was to honor a presidential inauguration. That would clearly be unfair to the evidence that survives, which is not complete, and to later Mint practice which noted type changes, resumptions of coinage, or introductions of new types by Proofs. Some of these politically important years are unknown in Proof, such as 1805 and the war years 1812-13. Instead, I would like to suggest that in the early years of the Mint the most important reason for striking Proofs was to honor or commemorate or promote an inauguration. In this respect, the practice would be very similar to contemporary European states mints' commemorations of new reigns by striking Proof coins and sets. This new explanation does give reasons for Proofs in years for which Breen could find no obvious ones, such as 1800, 1804, 1809, and 1817. In addition, it offers more substantial reasons that he was able to find for the issues of 1797, 1820, and 1821. Further, it may explain the 'abundance' of Proof 1821 large cents and the complete, or nearly so, issue of all denominations in Proof in 1817, 1820, and 1821.

Proof 1820 Square base 2 B.2-B half eagle.

If the Mint decided to strike Proofs for these political events they would have served the obvious purpose of showing to the newly installed leaders the best that one part of his new administration was capable of making. Clearly, an attractive, shiny selection of the nation's coins would make a handsome gift and could win friends at the very start of the new presidency. Perhaps the Proofs of 1800 and 1802 were made as evidence that the Mint could do a good job and should not be abolished, as some in Congress wanted at that time?

If Proofs were struck for inaugurations, to whom would the Mint have presented its Proof coins? I suspect that the recipients were limited to the President, Vice President, the six cabinet members, and perhaps the speaker of the house and chief justice of the Supreme Court. This would amount to ten Proofs of each coin so struck, and this small number accords well with the few Proofs surviving before 1821. The larger number of Proof 1821 cents may represent an expanded distribution. Certainly, after 1821 the Mint struck Proofs in ever larger numbers and in more denominations than before. It appears that complete sets of coins in Proof may not have been made up for presentation, since many denominations that could have been struck in Proof do not survive from some years. Instead, the gifts, if I am correct in my assumptions, were of a few Proofs to each recipient. The fact that they were wealthy and well connected individuals may help explain the fortunate survival of many of our early Proofs.

This choice specimen was last sold in J.C. Morgenthau's sale of August, 1937.

A clear tie-in between presidential inaugurations and mint activities can be shown as early as 1825. The presidential series U.S. Mint medal, Julian PR5, for John Quincy Adams was offered for sale by Adams' inaugural committee for $5 each in silver, as a way of raising funds for the celebration of the new presidency. I owe this reference to Carl W.A. Carlson, who noticed it in the January, 1992 issue of **The Numismatist**. This shows the Mint actively engaged in the inaugural celebrations on behalf of private persons intimately connected to the new president. It would not be surprising, therefore, to find the Mint active on behalf of a new president, especially if its activities served the Mint's own interests.

[ed. - All photos accompanying this article courtesy of Stack's, New York, NY.]

Some Notes on 1829 Dimes - JR3, JR5 and JR6

Mike Sherrill

I've had a difficult time locating examples of the 1829 JR3 and JR5 dimes. They are listed as R-4s in **Early United States Dimes 1796 - 1837**, but they are R-10s in my book.

When I examine an 1829 dime, I identify these varieties by the following 'exclusion procedure': First, check for the curved neck 2 in the date. (Curved base 2s in the date are nice also). Next, exclude the large and extra large 10c varieties which are easy to recognize on the 1829s. Finally, JR4 is excluded by a very close, almost joined, AME and JR6 is excluded by the lump on the scroll beneath S1. Now I know I have either a JR3 or a JR5.

About a year ago, I had the opportunity to see this 'exclusion procedure' fail most dramatically. I obtained from a dealer, in trade for several other coins from my collection, what I thought to be a JR3 or JR5 1829 dime. The fever was raging at that time and I was deliriously trading all non-bust pieces. The piece graded about EF-40 and was well struck. At first I was disappointed when I discovered I had picked up an example of JR6, but I became surprised, and then interested, when I saw that this JR6 did not exhibit the characteristic lump over the scroll on the reverse. Even with magnification and tilting, there wasn't so much as a hint of a lump on the scroll.

I suspect this is the earliest die state of JR6, and possibly very short-lived as such, since the lump on the scroll is used as the diagnostic for the JR6 reverse. All other examples of JR6 I have seen show a prominent lump below S1.

Being a neophyte with respect to die states, I assumed that the lump in the JR6 reverse was due to a single gouge in the die, and not due to deterioration. However, Brad tells me that half dollar die varieties exist with lumps on the scroll, and half dimes do as well, as illustrated in **JR Journal** Volume 2, Issue 3 (December, 1987, page 15). Since the lumps occur on multiple denominations, this would imply that they are the result of gradual loss of weakened die material surrounding the scroll.

This experience has opened my eyes to the interesting world of die states within particular varieties. I would like to assemble an EF-40 set of die states of JR6. Does anyone have additional information about die states of JR6, or about these lumps on the scroll? If so, please write to me at: P.O. Box 367, Ashaway, RI 02804

(continues on page 25)

1830 V3 Versus V11

Stephen A. Crain

In 1984, I purchased an 1830 Capped Bust Half Dime in choice VF and subsequently attributed it as a V3 (R-2). The reverse diagnostics were 2139 (per Reiver) *[Jules Reiver's **Variety Identification Manual for United States Half Dimes 1794 - 1837 (VIM)**]* with doubling at the top of S1 and at the top of 5. The obverse appeared to be LUBC, so I attributed the coin as a V3.

Later, in 1991, I purchased a borderline UNC 1830 that caused me to rethink the attribution of my previous purchase. The new coin had the same reverse (2139), complete with the doubling on S1 and the 5. The obverse, however, was subtly different. The star positions lined up as LUUC and it displayed the diagnostic die crack from the rim through the lower points of star 1 to the bust. This coin, in fact, was a V3. The other coin, previously attributed as V3, was distinctly different and was in fact a V11 (R-4).

Carefully review your 1830 V3's and V11's, and note the very minor differences. Both share the same reverse, and the obverse differs only in the position of star 8. Another previously unlisted diagnostic is the position of the upright of the 1 in the date relative to the dentils.

The differences (and similarities) of V3 and V11 are tabulated below.

Variety	Reverse Code	Obverse Code	Upright of 1 in Date
V3	2139	LUUC (die crack at *1)	1 centered over space
V11	2139	LULC	1 centered over dentil

SOME NOTES ON 1829 DIMES - JR3, JR5 AND JR6

(continued from page 24)

P.S. I have revised my 'exclusion procedure' to exclude JR6 by looking for the detached top arrow shaft. Does anyone have an 'exclusion procedure' for the 1829 straight neck 2s?

1829 V4, V5 and V17: A Palindromic Emission Sequence?

J. Alan Bricker

Numismatic scholars of the Capped Bust Half Dime series dated from 1829 through 1837 have, in recent years, become increasingly aware of die pair remarriages within this series. Such a phenomenon is by no means unique to the half dimes; the case of the 1833 JR1 Capped Bust Dime is one well documented example of this type of development within the dime series. Certain die pairings for which the precise position within an emission order remains in doubt, due to observed discontinuities in die state progression, should be examined for the possible occurrence of remarriages. This would occur following the use of one or both of the dies within a different die pairing.

For many years, the die pairings in the striking of V4 and V5 half dimes dated 1829 were known to be die-linked by the use of a common reverse die. It became evident from available examples of these two marriages that earlier states of the V4 pairing were struck prior to the V5 pairing, which was later followed by a return to the striking of half dimes from the V4 pairing through a remarriage. In the opinion of the author, such remarriages create legitimate subvarieties since they are characterized by interruptions of non-continuous die marriages within an emission order. In this sense, such subvarieties may be considered to be integral to a truly 'complete' die variety set. However, such a condition in which a die pairing is discontinued and at least one of the dies involved is then used in the striking of a different marriage, later to be followed by a return to the original die combination in the production of coins, is not always obvious, and unrecorded instances undoubtedly exist to be uncovered by the astute observer.

In 1984, Jules Reiver published, his excellent **Variety Identification Manual for United States Half Dimes 1794-1837 (VIM)**.[1] Jules listed die state progressions for many of the remarriages in the Bust Half Dime series. A review of his listings for the reverse of 1829 V4 and V5 indicated that V5 existed with a reverse die state which was intermediate, between earlier and later states of the V4 pairing. No listing was given for an early, unbroken die state of the V5 marriage. Then, in 1987, an 1829 dated V5 half dime was found which lacked the reverse die deterioration characteristics listed by Jules. Although the piece was low grade with problems, no sign of die cracks or other evidence of die deterioration could be found on it, with one exception: there was filling, or an area of crumbling, within the upper angle of N in the word UNITED. It then became unclear which primary die pairing, V4 or V5, represented the initial use of this common reverse die. It should be noted in passing that Jules' listing under the section entitled *Turban Head*

Reverse Dies in the first edition of his half dime **VIM** suggests that 1829 V4 and V5 were struck from the same reverse die along with 1830 V5 and 1831 V6. This is in error, since the reverse die of 1829 V4 and V5 was not used in the striking of the other two marriages.

Later, in February of 1988, an 1829 dated Capped Bust Half Dime was found which was struck from the V4 and V5 reverse die, but the obverse failed to match either of the respective obverse dies used in these marriages. Upon further examination, the obverse was identified as that which was used to strike the V3 marriage of this date, and 1829 V17[(2)] became a newly reported marriage within the Capped Bust Half Dime series. Study of the reverse of the new V17 specimen revealed obvious die cracks and other evidence of die deterioration, but not in a die state as late as those known for the later state examples of the V4 marriage. The discovery of 1829 V17 became an additional inspiration for a systematic study of the die state progression and emission order of marriages incorporating this reverse die.

While studing the progression of the reverse die states of V4, V5 and the new V17, the author became fascinated with the pattern thus evoked and wondered whether or not the emission order might possibly constitute a palindrome. Basically, a palindrome is a sequence of elements or entities, the order of which reads the same whether read forward or backward. For example, 'ABA' and 'ABCBA' are palindromic sequences of letters of the English alphabet. In order to initiate this study scientifically, it was hypothesized that the variety emission order for products of the V4, V5, V17 reverse die could represent a palindrome of the latter pattern, struck in order as follows: V4, V5, V17, V5, and finally V4. The sequence would therefore read 4-5-17-5-4 under this hypothesis. In the study, which is the subject of this article, the author sought to investigate whether the emission sequence for the varieties under consideration in fact constituted a palindrome.

In the performance of the study, a stereo microscope was used in examining the reverses of a group of specimens of 1829 dated V4, V5, and V17 half dimes. While specimens of V4 could be located fairly readily with searching, the other marriages proved more difficult to locate. In the case of the extremely rare V17, a solitary example was available for study. This, however, was not considered to be an obstacle, since the prospect of finding more than one die state for the reverse during the striking of V17 was judged to be remote, in view of the rarity of this variety. A detailed examination of each available specimen bearing the reverse of interest would serve to test the hypothesis: the group examined contained seven V4's, three V5's and one V17. Following is a progression of reverse die deterioration based on examination of these specimens; all listings of cracks, etc, are cumulative, with capital letters representing observed die states within this sampling, and with the individual die deterioration defects identified by numerals.

A. (1829 V5) 1. Filling or crumbling in the upper angle of N in UNITED.

(1829 V4) (apparently same die state).

B. (1829 V4) 2. Faint crack appears from right top of E3 to left top of R.

C. (1829 V4) 3. A second faint crack, parallel to and just below the crack in (2.), creates a parallel double crack between the letter tops.
4. Crack from upper edge of left top serif of E3 up to left to dentil over space between ME in AMERICA then to dentil over upper right corner of M, then faintly from top of this dentil to rim.
5. Crack from right base of A2 to left base of M.
6. Crack down into field from left (as viewed) wing tip.

D. (1829 V17) 6. Crack now extends to dentil under tip of leftmost olive leaf.
7. Top of S2 in STATES solidly filled.
8. A lump develops from rim to dentil over tip of upper right serif of M.
9. Crack appears from right base of I2 in AMERICA up slightly to right, to back of Cl above its base.
10. Faint crack right top of R up to right to rim.
11. Faint crack right top of I2 up to right to rim.
12. Faint crack right top of Cl up to right to rim.

E. (1829 V5) 13. Crack along bases of UNI in UNITED.
14. Crack along tops of NIT.
15. Crack from right top of D to a dentil.
16. Crack from dentil to top of O in OF.
17. Crack from dentil to top of A2.
18. Crack from left edge of dentil to left top of A3.
19. Crack from right wing tip (as viewed) to upper arrow shaft
20. Crack along bases of MERIC.
21. Crack from third olive leaf from right, across two olive leaves, then down to right to a dentil.

22. Faint crack appears from tip of upper right serif of M to
    (a) lower edge of serif of E3;
    (b) center of dentil over space between ME, and joins lump crack to E3.
4. Crack from dentil to left top of E3 forms a lump.
2 + 3. Double crack connecting tops of ER fuses into one heavier crack.

(1829 V4) (apparently same die state).

F. (1829 V4)
4 + 22 + 23 The cracks form a triangular lump under the dentil, over the space between AM. This lump joins to left top of E3 but does not yet touch right top of M.
10. Crack from right top of R now splits field into two planes.
9. Crack from I2 to Cl becomes heavier.
2 + 3. The fused double crack now solidly connects tops of ER.

G. (1829 V4) 24. Faint crack from dentil to top of Al.
25. Faint arc crack over center angle of M.
4 + 22 + 23. Lump over ME enlarges and now touches top of M.
26. Crack develops from left top of I2 to dentil, connecting to crack (10.) from this dentil to right top of R.
9. Crack connecting IC in AMERICA forms a lump.
27. Three faint additional cracks appear, connecting I2 to the back of C1.
28. Crack from base of Cl to base of A3 to the two uppermost arrowheads.
29. Faint crack from bottom of C2 to a dentil.
30. Crack between olive branches just inside claw at left.
31. Crack from tip of leftmost olive leaf joins to crack from wingtip to dentil.
32. Crack from middle arrowhead tip to dentil.
33. Crack from lower right side of C2 to the period, then turning toward the lowest arrowhead.

A very late state specimen of V4 seen earlier by the author was not available for this study, but would not have altered the observed emission sequence. In general, the cracks mentioned above became heavier and additional cracks appeared freely near the peripheries on this die as it deteriorated toward its terminal die state. Additionally, the lump over ME became still heavier.

Under the original hypothesis, the V4, V5, V17 reverse die would have been used initially in the striking of V4, followed by V5; then it would presumably have been used transiently in striking of the extremely rare V17 prior to being remarried first to the obverse die used earlier in the striking of V5 coins and then, finally, to the obverse used for V4 until at last breaking up and being retired from service. A critical question at the outset of the study was ... "Which came first, V4 or V5?" The key clue here to the initiation of the emission order was the finding that V4 existed with cracks not visible on the earliest observed state of the reverse (shared by V4 and V5), yet was clearly struck prior to V17. Using this information, the author elected to infer that V5 was struck prior to V4 in their respective first marriages. The rationale for drawing this conclusion was the fact that although V4 and V5 appeared to be indistinguishable in their earliest reverse die states insofar as the author could determine from the specimens available, the next die state observed turned up on V4. It would therefore seem correct to conclude that V5 came first, in the absence of further evidence indicating that a very early state V4 preceeded the first marriage V5. Using similar reasoning, the striking of the second marriage V5 specimens was placed immediately following the striking of V17. Summing up, the observations undertaken herein appear to refute the original hypothesis and suggest instead that the actual emission sequence was as follows: V5 (first marriage), V4 (first marriage), V17, V5 (second marriage), and V4 (second marriage). The pattern would therefore be 5-4-17-5-4, which is non-palindromic.

The author believes this to be the only reported instance, thus far, in which an individual die has been used in striking multiple marriages of more than one primary die variety. The circumstance of having a third primary die pairing interposed between the first and second marriages of the interrupted primary die pairings creates additional interest.
It appears easy to speculate that the press operators at the mint encountered episodes of production equipment downtime which led the mint employees to remove and shelve working dies temporarily, and that dies were placed back into service more or less randomly following troubleshooting.

It is important to recognize that additional remarriages of the dies involved in this study cannot be ruled out on the basis of these observations. This would be true even if the sampling of coins examined herein were in fact to represent all of the marriages and remarriages utilizing the common reverse die, since the remote possiblity of undetected, or 'silent', remarriages cannot be eliminated. It seems impossible to absolutely and positively define and limit a sequence, of emission usages of a particular die, simply because the remote possibility always exists that a further as yet unknown or unreported remarriage has occurred with that die.

Although there are other potential methods of emission sequence determination available for the closed collar Capped Bust Half Dimes, the author has elected not to utilize these within this study. One example would be based on the observation that as a die ages, the rim dentilation begins to show signs of wear, losing sharpness and becoming 'mushed out' in the process. Another would be based on the possibility that edge reeding gauge variations occurred within the closed collar minting process under which the Capped Bust Half Dimes were produced, but this has not been investigated by the author.

Naturally, comments, criticism, and other correspondence from interested readers regarding this study, other die marriages within the Capped Bust Half Dimes or any other series of interest to JRCS members are welcome. Correspondence should be addressed to the author: J. Alan Bricker, P.O. Box 4863, Baltimore, MD. 21211.

Citations

(1) Jules Reiver, **Variety Identification Manual for United States Half Dimes 1794-1837 (VIM)**, copyrighted 1984.

(2) Jules Reiver in **JR Journal**, Volume 3, Issue 2/3 (December, 1988); p. 39, *Another New Half Dime Variety - 1829 V17.*

1834 O113 & O114 Capped Bust Halves: A Different View

Ivan Leaman

The History

It has long been known that 1834 O113 and O114 evolved from the same hub. Edge die study has suggested that O114 preceded O113. The edge die sequence of the 1834 containing these die marriages is listed below.

#9	#10	#11	#12	#13
106	104	116	**114**	**113**
107	116	**114**	**113**	118
104			112	112
114			111	

Since there were no die linked marriages struck in 1834 (O102, O110, O119, O120 and O121 were struck in succeeding years) an emission order cannot be devised by using obverse and reverse die states. The order can only be devised by using hub style, date, letter star size and edge die linkage. These factors produce a probable emission order for the middle of 1834: O106, O107, O104, O116, O114, O113, O118, O112 and O111.

It also has long been known that when a working die had been hardened and used to strike coins in this series, it was never changed except by lapping. The overdates were cut on new working dies that had not previously been used. The only exception to this rule is possibly 1823 O101a where a punch was used to strengthen the broken 3. (The distorted 3's on 1823 O106a, O109 and O110a were caused by die cracks.)

Observations

Three 1834 O113's (one AU-55) and four O114's (two AU-55) were used for my study. One of the O114's (an AU-55) is an extremely late die state with little dentilation remaining. The stars and reverse letters are very heavily drawn to the rim. The recutting, present on the stars on an early die state, is obliterated on the three outside points on this late die state example. The recutting on the upper serifs of the reverse letters is also indistinguishable. These factors alone preclude the practicality of re-engraving the O114 working die to produce O113. There are many others.

Obverse Differences

The characteristics listed below are differences between the O113 and O114 obverses. You must keep in mind that the removal of metal from a working die cannot be reversed.

The lower forecurl on O114 is divided into two unequal parts - 75% toward the forehead and 25% toward the rim. The O113 has this curl evenly divided.

On O114, there is a curl inside the oval curl below the letter B in LIBERTY. This curl is on the left side of the oval space from the center of the bottom to the center of the top. This curl is absent on O113. The accessory curl to the left of the curl under B, contacts the oval curl from 7:00 to 10:00 on O114; while from 6:30 to 12:00 on O113. The space under L in LIBERTY has two light hairstrands on the O114. The O113 contains three hairstrands in that space, all differing in position from those on O114. The space under I on O114 has one faint hairstrand, on O113 there are two.

Reverse Differences

The characteristics listed below are differences between the O113 and O114 reverses. The following characteristics appear on O114. Once again this represents a loss of die metal that could not be replaced on the die used to strike O113.

The upper border of the shield is thicker with the apex sharper and higher. The very small triangle remaining on the die below the apex could not be expanded into the larger one seen on O113.

The first three crossbars are joined at the right shield border on O114. They are separated on O113.

Crossbar 4 extends right completely through a feather and crossbar 5 nearly to center below feather. Crossbar 4 extends left at the same level as the shield border. The bottom crossbar extends left past the center of the third feather left of the shield. The level of the left wing is much lower than that of the shield border.

The stripes on the O114 are partially filled. There are lumps between lines 1 and 2 of stripe 2 at top, lines 1 and 2 of stripe 3 at top, lines 1 and 2 of stripe 5 at top and lines 2 and 3 of stripe 5 at top and bottom.

There are lumps between stripes 2 and 3 above center and between stripes 3 and 4 at the bottom. A diagonal line joins stripes 4 and 5 near bottom.

The inside left border of the shield on O114 has been lapped and slopes down almost to stripe 1. O113 has a triple cut inner border.

The leg feathers are engraved from the claw to the first two breast feathers to the right of the shield apex below stripes 4 and 5 on O114. The die surface on O113 is clear in that area.

The 5 in the denomination is cut much deeper into the die on O114 than on O113.

Conclusion

It is apparent from the foregoing observations that the metal loss from the working dies that struck O114 could not possibly be replaced before striking O113. Therefore, 1834 O113 and 1834 O114 are two distinct die marriages. The exact positioning of all elements on the two marriages require that they be from the same hub. Since the hub is embossed like the coin, the stars, letters, etc. could not have been punched or engraved on the hub, but on a prior step, the master die. The only plausible explanation for this phenomenon is that this hub was created by a poorly executed, but completely finished, master die. This crude attempt would have been a first at hubbing the complete design, followed but two years later by the 1836 reeded edge half dollar.

[ed. - This is in response to the article, 'A Die Study: The 1834 Capped Bust Halves - O113 and O114,' by Craig Sholley and Edgar E. Souders which appeared in the ***JR Journal*** *Volume 4, Issue 2 (September, 1989, page 31). Ed has promised another article attempting to prove the theory that Craig and himself originally published. We are anxiously awaiting the arrival of the article ... How about it guys?]*

Looking to the Stars
Stephen A. Crain

Attributing obverse dies of Capped Bust Half Dimes can sometimes be frustrating, as it is difficult to precisely determine the alignment of star points to denticles as outlined in Jules Reiver's **Variety Identification Manual for United States Half Dimes 1794 - 1837 (VIM)**. Jules even suggests attributing the reverse first, as it is significantly easier to do with any degree of accuracy. Once the reverse has been identified, in most cases, the number of possible obverses has been reduced to a limited number.

A few hints might prove helpful in determining the alignment of star points to denticles. First, try looking from the edge of the coin towards the center across the denticles and at the point of the star in question. Then turn the coin around and look from the center of the coin outward across the star into the denticles. See if your alignment (Between, Lower, Upper or Center) agrees in both directions. Often the alignment will seem to vary depending upon the direction from which it is viewed. Another suggestion is to construct a straight-edge device, as described in the **JR Journal**, Volume 5, Issue 2 (October, 1991, Page 20) to aid in aligning the star points to denticles. I have found this to be of great value in determining strict alignment of the devices.

Finally, if you are fortunate enough to have access to a stereo microscope, the task of determining star point alignment is greatly facilitated. It is remarkable how straightforward those alignments become using a 30 power microscope. Specimens which could not previously be determined with certainty using a 10X loupe, become quite obvious with the microscope. Interestingly, with stereo vision, it is most useful to sight straight on with your line of sight perpendicular to the plane of the coin surface at the point in question. This differs from viewing the coin at an oblique angle, as suggested earlier for monocular devices.

The later issues, years 1836 and 1837, have much finer denticles and virtually require the extra magnification of a microscope.

1825 O118 Discovery Piece

The cover coin for Volume 7 of the **JR Journal** is the UNIQUE 1825 O118. This beauty was cherrypicked by a California collector on a trip to Oregon in 1983 for his parents' 50th wedding anniversary. He stopped into a small local shop to kill a little time and made bust half history. Like any true, hard core collector, he never traveled without his Overton, and spent nearly a half an hour confirming the piece was not listed. His thoughts ran through many emotions and he even thought that his new find may be one of the well executed counterfeits from that era.

He soon pocketed his purchase and returned to the car where his wife had been patiently awaiting his return. She remembered him coming up to the car "grinning from ear to ear." He stated, "I think that I have found something worthwhile ... don't loose it or I'll commit suicide!" She nervously placed it into her purse for the return trip. Once home, he checked and rechecked to be sure it was a new variety. He consulted another California expert who confirmed the new discovery. They finally determined the reverse was that of 1824 O116 and 1825 O103. This aided in determining that it was genuine, as a counterfeiter would not have had a true mint die for use.

The discoverer of the 1825 O118 described his feelings as being "on cloud nine," although this was not his first trip into the stratosphere. Earlier, he had found an 1823 O113 ... but that's another story.

This piece now resides in a prominent East Coast collection and was displayed at the Chicago ANA. The distinctive die crack on the obverse is a telltale diagnostic to even novice, but does it exist in perfect die state?

The generally accepted emmission order for these coins is: 1825 O118, 1824 O116 then 1825 O103, which suggests that the die broke almost immediately. The mint workers then used a leftover 1824 die to continue production. The 1824 obverse was then replaced with the 1825 O103 obverse to continue production of halves. Thus we have 1824 O116 being produced in the year of 1825 assuming the emmision order is correct.

Is there even another 1825 O118 out there with the die crack, just waiting to be discovered? I know that I will be looking!

Attribution Diagnostics:

Obverse 15	**S1LH, S7C-JCHb, S8C, S13UE, S11B**
Reverse C.	**A1LE, A2UE, A3LE** I centered under left side of T. No center dot. Verticle line at left end of upper 5 crossbars. ED and AM joined at bases. ME very close, M is higher. E in UNITED is recut. (See 1824 O116 and 1825 O103).

Parts of the above attribution diagnostic information taken from **Early Half Dollar Die Varieties 1794 - 1836**, Third Edition by Al C. Overton, edited by Donald L. Parsley. Copyrighted 1990.

[ed. - Written by Bradley S. Karoleff as told by California Collector and his wife, October 1992. Many thanks to the East Coast collector for his supplying the photos for reproduction.]

(PPP continued from page 11)

JRCS

Mark Smith's quiz on the half dimes, **JR Journal** (Volume 6, Issue 3, July 1992) was one of the most challenging and thoughtful that I've ever seen. After barely 'breaking .500', I found myself happily engaged in a couple of hours of research to fill in the blanks. Thanks to Mark!

Harry Salyards

I Remember Richard Pugh

Charlton E. Meyer, Jr.

My memory fails me as to the year that I first met Richard Pugh. It was at an ANA show, and I can remember that after a few hours of wandering the aisles of the bourse, a person gets tired and thirsty. I headed to the nearby 'watering hole' where I saw several Lettered Edge Half Dollar enthusiasts, whom I knew, quaffing a few 'Pepsis'. The discussion was the usual bull. Somebody introduced me to a recent enthusiast by the name of Richard Pugh. I asked, "Dick?" and he said "No, Richard," and Richard it was. After a few minutes, briefcases started opening and duplicate halves emerged. Richard asked me if he could look at mine. "Certainly," I said. After a while, Richard had a few in his hand, and he very politely asked me if he could take them into better light to examine them better. Naturally, I said "okay," and after a while, he returned and started asking me for prices. There was no haggling — no discussion — it was either "okay" or "I don't think so." When he finished, we totaled up, and he reached into his pocket and paid for them in cash, followed by: "Thank you very much. You really helped me." I think I murmured something like "My pleasure," or maybe, "Glad to get rid of those pups."

In later years, I could see Richard developing into an expert in all aspects of the hobby. He upgraded, branched out into error coins, and a few counterstamped busties.

I can remember that at one show, he came up to me and asked, "Do you need an 1828 Houck's?" (He knew I was trying for a date set of Houck's Panacea counterstamped busties). I checked my list and replied that I needed that date. He said, "I have one but it is going to cost you!" I asked why and he replied: "The counterstamp is on a 123!" Hell! I had to have it then — a double rarity!

Later, I met him on the West Coast. After the usual greetings, Richard asked, "You want to see something?" "Sure, always!" — so he reached into his billfold and out comes this doggy 1805 half. I'll admit that it took me a few minutes + a double check into the book to realize that I was looking at an 1805 O114. "First one I have ever seen," I commented. "Looks like a Mint State 65 — maybe better," I continued. Richard beamed! From that point on, every time I saw him, out came the 1805 O114, and I studied it like it was the first time.

The few times that I made it to the shows in southern California, Richard would always invite me to his home for dinner. I always declined because I knew the distances involved, and the time that it would have taken him to drive. I will always regret declining. Richard was always the perfect gentleman.

One of the funnier experiences was at some ANA show. I had a 'deal' working with a friend from Pennsylvania. Whenever he came across a Houck's half dollar at a reasonable price in his coin-gathering ventures into the wilds of southern Pennsylvania, he was to buy it and I guaranteed him a profit. Well, at this particular ANA show, there was a party at somebody's hotel suite. Richard was sitting next to me when 'The Duke' (as I called the gentleman from Pennsylvania) approached me. He said: "Charlton, I found another Houck's recently!" I asked, "What did you pay for it?" He replied, "$75." "Okay," I said. "I think the deal is that you double your money." "Right." So I gave him $150. I looked at the coin and checked my list. Then I whispered to Richard, "Damn, I already have one!" Richard asked: "Do you want to sell it?" "Sure!" "How much?" "$250!" "Sold!" The Duke doubled his money and I made $100 and Richard got a nice looking Houck's counterstamp for a very reasonable price.

The 1832 Houck's came back on the market May 31, 1992 in Superior Galleries' auction **The Dr. Jack Adams Collection** (which featured other important collections from Tom Morley, Richard Pugh and the Federal Trade Commission) Lot 1489. I bought it and it is not for sale!

1832 O106 - Houck's Panacea counterstamp.

[ed. - Photo courtesy of Superior Galleries, Beverly Hills, CA.]

Treasurer's Report -
01-Oct-1990 to 30-Sep-1992

As promised, the treasury is back in phase with the Journal, or is it vice-versa ... who cares, as long as we have both. This report spans a two year period, three Journals, an editor, two co-editors and one treasurer. Our financial position is strong, and the fact that our members are willing to share their knowledge is attracting increasing numbers of new members.
In the forthcoming year, we would like to increase our publications to four. Your help is requested in two ways:

1) Volunteer an additional $5 in dues (a total of $15) and submit this before we have to pay postage to remind you
2) Write an article about your favorite subject and submit it to the editors.

In order to inform you of what the treasury thinks your status is, we have devised yet another postage-savings gimmick. (Postage accounts for a whopping 32% of our annual expenses.) The number following your JRCS number on the mailing lable is not the number of marriages you need to complete your set, but rather is the amount of dues credited to your account for the fiscal year ending September 30, 1993. If there is no number following your JR number, then we will welcome your dues contribution. The last dues deposit (as of this writing) was made September 10th, so if you think your check was in transit, please wait until I sent out dues notices three weeks from this mailing.
This Journal will be your last if you do not forward us your dues. Some members move without leaving a forwarding address with the post office; so please help us find you if you are moving by sending us a post card with your new address.

On March 20th, we will celebrate our 10th year as an 'official' numismatic organization. We have experienced an average annual growth rate of 58%, something even ANA would envy. With your continued support, we look forward to another successful year and four Journals. Your suggestions are always welcome.

Respectfully submitted,

Russell J. Logan
Treasurer

John Reich Collectors Society
P.O. Box 135
Harrison, Ohio 45150

Statement of cash receipts and disbursements for
24 month period ending 30-Sep-92

Cash Position On 01-Oct-90		
Checking Account	$3,625.38	
Life Membership Account	3,000.00	
On Hand	0.00	
	Total	$6,625.38
Income		
Back Issues Sales	$1,465.31	
Interest	884.33	
Dues	5,338.00	
Life Membership	1,000.00	
	Total Income	$8,687.64
Expenses		
Supplies	$ 457.41	
Journal	3,842.10	
Postage	2,124.64	
Miscellaneous	299.60	
	Total Expenses	$6,723.75
Cash Position On 30-Sep-92		
Checking Account	$4,589.27	
Life Membership Account	4,000.00	
On Hand	0.00	
	Balance	$8,589.27

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